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THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

STATE HOUSE • BOSTON 02133

MICHAEL S. DUKAKIS
GOVERNOR

SEP 8 1988

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ANNUAL REPORT - JUDICIAL NOMINATING COUNCIL - 1987-1988

March 7, 1988, brought to a close the first year of meetings of Governor Dukakis's Judicial Nominating Council, appointed at the start of his third term in 1987. The eighteen members of the Council, from both legal and non-legal areas, and representing nine of the thirteen Massachusetts counties, have convened on Monday evenings in order to review applications and interview applicants for vacancies in the courts of the Commonwealth.

In their first year, the Council members have held 38 formal 4-hour meetings and interviewed 139 men and women to fill thirteen vacancies:

Plymouth District Court: Thomas Brownell

Bristol County Juvenile Court: James Cronin

Worcester Juvenile Court Clerk Magistrate: Craig Smith

Springfield District Court: William Teahan

Framingham District Court: Paul Healy

Plymouth County Probate Court: Charles Bowser

Bristol County Probate Court: Elizabeth LaStaiti

Superior Court: John Xifaras

Chicopee District Court Clerk Magistrate: Paul Kozikowski

Orleans District Court Clerk Magistrate: To be Named

Gloucester District Court: To be Named ✓

Gloucester District Court (II): To be Named ✓

Worcester Probate Court: Incomplete

The attendance of Council members over the year has averaged 14 members per meeting. Not only do the members volunteer their Monday evenings to meet but they also spend an incalculable number of hours each week reading applications and researching candidates' backgrounds and qualifications. In the first twelve months, 218 individuals filed applications indicating an interest in one or more courts. A total of 325 applications were considered for the twelve plus vacancies, an average of 27 per vacancy. 39 of the individuals were women, or 17.8%. 71.7% of these women were interviewed; of 37 names recommended to the Governor, 10, or 27%, were women.

Members of minority groups have submitted 6 applications, and all 6 have received interviews. The Council has been using several avenues to attract minority applicants, and plans soon to meet with representatives of the minority lawyers' associations to explore means of reaching out to their members to interest them in judicial service.



In order to increase their awareness of the needs of the various courts, the Judicial Nominating Council has met with Chief Justice of the Supreme Judicial Court, Edward F. Hennessey; Appeals Court Justice Edith Fine; Superior Court Chief Justice Thomas Morse; District Court Chief Justice Samuel Zoll; Probate and Family Court Chief Justice Alfred Podolski, and Springfield District Court Judge George Bregianes. The members have also met with representatives of the Court's Gender Bias Committee, and been in communication with the Disability Law Center. Announcements of vacancies are regularly sent to over eleven Bar Associations, lawyers' groups, and all local newspapers. A meeting was held in Springfield at the time interviews were being held for the Springfield District Court, and more such meetings are planned in the future in various parts of the state.

Several members of the Council, including the Chair, have independently conducted seminars to educate the legal community on the application process. One Executive Council member organized a panel discussion in his district for the same purpose, inviting the Judicial Nominating Council chair and council members to participate.

The Council has made a genuine effort to cooperate with the Executive Council, with a business-social morning meeting, and members meeting individually, in order to understand and be sympathetic to each others' interests and concerns. There seems to be general good feeling between the two Councils as a result of their increased communication.



At the present time, there are to be considered in 1988 eight District Court vacancies, one Boston Municipal Court vacancy, one Superior Court vacancy, two Housing Court vacancies, and two Housing Court Clerk Magistrate vacancies. With the possibility of more judicial positions coming from the Legislature, it appears that the second year of the Judicial Nominating Council will be at least as busy and productive as the first.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Eleanor S. Mazzone". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Eleanor S. Mazzone
Staff Director
Judicial Nominating Council
April 4, 1988





